



Speech By  
**Colin Boyce**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### Paradise Dam

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (7.06 pm): Paradise Dam is fast becoming the biggest infrastructure failure in Queensland history. The Labor government is hell-bent on pulling down the dam wall on the grounds of safety. The minister, Dr Lynham, is refusing to release the commission of inquiry's report into the lowering of the Paradise Dam wall. The report has cost the Queensland taxpayer \$6 million. What is the minister hiding from now? This morning in question time I asked the minister a simple question: who has made the decision to lower the Paradise Dam wall? The minister did not answer. I will quote what the minister said in a letter to Marland Law which I tabled this morning—

I advise that the decision was not made by me, rather the decision was made by SunWater as the owner and operator of Paradise Dam.

Sunwater's response through Allens Linklaters—documents also tabled this morning—says—

Our client is required by statute to proceed with essential works condition DS15 which is one of the safety conditions for the dam that provides :- the primary spillway is to be lowered to EL 62.6m AHD or nearest level below this by 1st December 2020 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Dam Safety Regulator. Our client must comply with this by virtue of Section 356A of the Water Supply Act.

Would you not agree, Mr Deputy Speaker, that that is conflicting? Furthermore, it is now obvious that the minister has not read Dr Rizzo's report. He has stated that there is no reference to the cost of repairing the Paradise Dam. Page 33 of the report, which I will table, says quite clearly that the 63 anchors recommended for Paradise Dam would have a cost of US\$15.75 million.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 29 March 2020, titled 'Rizzo International, Inc.—Assessment of Dam Safety Issues Paradise Dam Queensland, Australia: Project 19-6089, Revision 0' [796].

That is approximately A\$25 million. Also, page 38 of Dr Rizzo's report says—

Paradise Dam is in a distressed state but is highly unlikely to experience failure resulting in loss of life. The distressed state can be remediated at reasonable cost as accomplished at other dams around the world, without negative consequences or extreme actions. We are of the opinion that an alarmist atmosphere has evolved over the safety of Paradise Dam without adequate basis.

The distress should be addressed with suitable corrective engineering actions but such actions should be measured, not extreme or dramatically disruptive.

With the modifications to the SunWater concept as recommended here in, it may be possible to achieve adequate F.O.S. against sliding without post tension anchors. i.e. Simply by modifying the ... spillway ...

*(Time expired)*